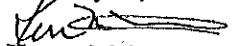


To Chairmen Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Richard Roy, Vice-Chairmen Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Paul Davis and the Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Karen Nettleton. I live in Sharon CT. I oppose S.B. No. 830-An Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces. My husband, Darrin, and I have owned an outdoor wood furnace since 2004. We spent a year researching our furnace. What kind and size to get, placement of the furnace, of which we watched wind direction as to the best placement. We filed the proper building permits and were approved. What smoke we do produce does not affect our neighbors. The dissipation is helped due to pine trees near the furnace; wind direction sometimes causes it to go up into the woods. Most of the wood used is off of our 5+ acres of land. We receive phone calls from neighbors asking us to get trees that have fallen on their property or pine that they can not burn inside, but is safe in an outdoor wood furnace. We use to pay approximately \$5000-\$8000 per year in oil, when it was less that \$2.00 a gallon. We couldn't afford to heat our house at today's prices per gallon. (We don't have an extravagant house). We would probably lose our house and if we did, unfortunately, we would probably leave Connecticut. Both my husbands and my families have been here for many generations but it is getting too expensive to live here. The outdoor wood furnace has helped offset the cost. Indoor woodstoves and furnaces are large causes of house fires and carbon monoxide poisoning each year. These were always two of my greatest fears, now I don't have to worry about my family's safety. In 2003 our insurance company made us remove our indoor woodstoves and these types of heating are banned in our policy, which is why we turned to the outdoor wood furnace. A ban on the outdoor wood furnace would leave us with oil or natural gas as our only options. We understand that there needs to be regulations and we are not opposed to that, but a complete ban is wrong. This should be the responsibility of each individual town and their building inspectors to determine if a furnace will affect neighbors. If a furnace is being misused, a fine should be imposed, as they should not produce a large amount of smoke for any lengthy period. Many wood furnaces in rural areas are well placed and do not affect others. We haven't heard of any complaints here in the northwest corner. Many times we have people stop to ask about our furnace. They leave well informed on the proper placement and use of an outdoor wood furnace. Lastly, banning outdoor wood furnaces over other forms of heating that require smoke to escape via a chimney should be discriminatory as it singles out one form of heating over another. It also enables dependence on foreign oil and natural gas and a homeowner hostage to these companies. It should be a homeowner's choice if they have the means not to affect others.

Thank you,


Karen M. Nettleton